

Pressure Dependence and Metastable State Formation in the Photolysis of Dichloride Monoxide (Cl_2O)

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Abstract

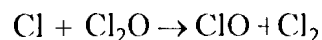
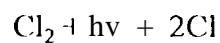
The photodissociation of dichloride monoxide (Cl_2O) was studied using broadband flash photolysis to investigate the influence of variations in the photolysis wavelength domain, bath gas pressure and bath gas identity on the yield and temporal dependence of the ClO product. ClO yields were independent of bath gas pressure when the photolysis spectral band extended to 200 nm (quartz cutoff) but for photolysis restricted to wavelengths longer than about 250 nm, ClO yields decreased with increasing bath gas pressure and there was a pressure-dependent delay in the formation of ClO. Under these conditions, a weak, highly structured absorption spectrum was observed in the range $16,600\text{--}26,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ with a lifetime on the order of 500 ms. A portion of the spectrum could be analyzed ($22,000\text{--}26,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$) which showed progressions having differences of $283,443$ and 505 cm^{-1} . *Ab initio* calculations were performed to evaluate vertical excitation energies and oscillator strengths from the lowest-energy singlet ($X^1\text{A}_1$) or triplet (1^3B_1) states to various excited states. The calculations indicated that the $2^3\text{A}_2 \leftarrow 1^3\text{B}_1$ transition has an unusually large oscillator strength. The transition energy, 3.05 eV, is consistent with the observed metastable spectrum. The observed pressure dependence of ClO formation could be modeled using a mechanism which assumed that Cl_2O excitation at wavelengths longer than about 300 nm leads to rapid intersystem crossing to two metastable states in the triplet manifold. These states undergo competitive dissociation to $\text{ClO} + \text{Cl}$ and collisional relaxation to the ground state. The dynamics of Cl_2O may serve as a model for other molecules of importance in the Earth's lower stratosphere such as ClONO_2 where filtering of the solar spectrum by ozone restricts photolysis to the weak tail of the absorption continuum.

1. introduction

The photodissociation of chlorine oxides has received considerable attention in recent years due to their involvement in stratospheric ozone depletion by chlorofluorocarbons. Cl_2O (chlorine monoxide or dichlorine monoxide) is the anhydride of an important chlorine 'reservoir species in the stratosphere, HOCl , but does not itself play a significant role in atmospheric chemistry. There is, however, interest in understanding the kinetics and photodissociation of Cl_2O . Because it is used extensively as a ClO source through direct photolysis,



and by the rapid reaction with atomic chlorine,



it is important to quantify the wavelength dependences of the overall quantum yields for all photolytic channels.

Early studies of Cl_2O photodissociation showed that irradiation at wavelengths below 300 nm leads primarily to formation of $\text{ClO} + \text{Cl}$, with minor channels leading to $\text{O}(^3\text{P})$ or $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$ by the reactions



Finkelnburg *et al.* and Schumacher and Townend used steady-state photolysis sources combined with measurements of the Cl_2 quantum yield to deduce the primary quantum yields.² Later flash photolysis studies of Cl_2O employed the direct detection of ClO .^{3,4} Sander and Friedl⁵ observed the formation of BrO in the broadband photolysis of $\text{Cl}_2\text{O}-\text{Br}_2$ systems at wavelengths longer

than 180 nm. in this experiment, the only likely pathway for the formation of BrO was the $\text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{Br}_2$ reaction, with the $\text{O}(^3\text{P})$ being produced by Cl_2O photolysis. The measured $\text{O}(^3\text{P})$ quantum yield over the photolysis band was $25 \pm 5\%$. Recently, Nelson *et al.*⁶ have employed

photofragment translational energy spectroscopy in a molecular beam to study Cl_2O photodissociation mechanisms at 308, 248 and 193 nm. This work showed that primary Cl-O bond fission occurs at all three wavelengths. At 248 and 193 nm the ClO fragment possessed sufficient internal energy to undergo secondary dissociation and at 193 nm there was evidence for concerted Cl_2 elimination pathways on both the singlet and triplet surfaces. While this experiment provided considerable information on the dynamics of the primary and secondary reaction channels, it was unable to study the photolysis in the weak tail of the Cl_2O absorption continuum beyond 308 nm or effects due to collisions. Chichinin⁷ studied the 248 nm photolysis of Cl_2O using time resolved laser magnetic resonance to measure the extent of spin-orbit excitation of nascent $\text{Cl}(^2\text{P}_j)$. The atomic chlorine was found to be predominantly (82%) in the ground ($^2\text{P}_{3/2}$) state at this wavelength but quantum yields at longer wavelengths and the effect of buffer gas collisions were not examined.

Cl_2O is characterized by a continuous absorption spectrum with maxima at 530, 410, 256 and 171 nm, and a vibrationally resolved Rydberg series with an absorption maximum at 161.1 nm (figure 1).⁸⁻⁹ The electronic states responsible for the observed ultraviolet absorption bands have not been determined experimentally or theoretically. Because the Cl_2O absorption cross sections decrease rapidly to values less than 10^{-20} molecule cm^{-2} beyond 350 nm direct probing of the photodissociation dynamics of the visible band systems is quite difficult due to the small fractional decomposition of the photolyte.

Photodissociation in the weak absorption tail is a problem that is very important for stratospheric and tropospheric chemistry. Species that are important temporary reservoirs of odd hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine and bromine such as ClONO_2 and BrONO_2 are most abundant in the lower stratosphere below 30 km. In this region of the atmosphere, ozone absorption removes virtually all solar radiation below 290 nm. At wavelengths longer than this cutoff point, the absorption cross sections of many temporary reservoir species are small due to weak Franck-Condon overlap or forbidden electronic transitions. Nevertheless, photolysis is the most important loss process for these molecules in the lower stratosphere. Results of photodissociation studies carried out at shorter wavelengths, or under different conditions of

temperature and pressure than those encountered in the lower stratosphere may not be applicable to the real atmosphere. Errors in the measurement of effective quantum yields will have a significant impact on the ability of atmospheric models to correctly predict the abundance and partitioning of trace species, and therefore affect calculations of stratospheric ozone loss. As indicated above, while Cl_2O is not a molecule that is directly relevant to atmospheric chemistry, studies of its photodissociation at long wavelengths may serve as a paradigm for the understanding of the photolysis of stratospheric temporary reservoir species.

One approach to the investigation of photolysis processes in weakly absorbing bands is to use a broadband photolysis source such as a flashlamp coupled with analysis by time-resolved absorption spectroscopy. While a flashlamp lacks the wavelength specificity to initiate photolysis from a well-defined initial state, it can provide a large photolysis flux in the region of low absorption cross section of the photolyte. We have used this approach to study the photolysis of Cl_2O . Photolysis filters were used to isolate photolysis spectral regions from 180 nm through the visible. The yields and time-dependent concentrations of ClO were measured as a function of buffer gas density using an optical multichannel analyzer (OMA). The spectrum of a new intermediate was identified in the photolysis of Cl_2O at wavelengths longer than 300 nm. *Ab initio* calculations have been carried out to determine the energy ordering and oscillator strengths for transitions in the singlet and triplet manifolds of Cl_2O using the complete-active-space self-consistent-field (CASSCF) and multireference configuration-interaction (MRCI) methods for the singlet and triplet ground and excited states, respectively.

II. Experimental

Cl_2O was prepared by the method of Cady¹⁸ in which a mixture of 10-20% Cl_2 in helium was slowly flowed over dried HgO at room temperature and at a total pressure of 250 Torr. The effluent gas was collected in a trap at 161 K. Cl_2O was purified of residual Cl_2 by vacuum distillation at 196 K. The purity of the sample was checked by UV absorption spectroscopy. The only detectable impurity was OCIO at 0.2 pptv with no discernible Cl_2 impurity. Cl_2O was introduced into the flash photolysis apparatus by flowing UHP helium (Matheson) through the

liquid sample at 196 K. The helium pressure in the sample bubbler was varied from 500-1020 Torr depending on the desired concentration of Cl_2O and flow rate within the reaction cell.

The flash photolysis apparatus employed has been used in this laboratory for many studies and is described in detail elsewhere.^j A brief outline of the features important for these experiments follows. Identical reaction cells fabricated from Pyrex or quartz were used in these experiments, depending on the range of photolysis wavelengths desired. Each cell consisted of a central reaction region 90.5 cm in length through which the gas mixture flowed. The reaction cell was surrounded by three annular jackets. The innermost jacket comprised an optical filter into which inorganic salt solutions could be added to provide coarse wavelength filtering of the spectral distribution of the photolyzing light. The middle jacket comprised a flashlamp which was used to initiate photodissociation of chlorine oxide. This jacket was filled with 30-50 Torr xenon which was discharged with a 27.5 kV potential through a $2.4 \mu\text{F}$ capacitor to produce a high intensity broadband flash. The outermost jacket was connected to a heater/chiller to provide temperature control of the reactor contents.

The two different cells provided some wavelength control of the photolysis light--the Pyrex cell cuts off wavelengths shorter than 300 nm due to the intrinsic properties of the material, and the quartz cell extended the photolysis cut-off to 200 nm. Spectral distributions of the photolysis flash with each filter and cell were obtained by recording the spectral distribution of the photolysis light scattered along the probe beam detection axis. The associated spectral distributions from 200 nm to 400 nm are shown in figures 2a-d. To further limit the spectral distribution of the flashlamp, two salt solutions were used. A solution of KMnO_4 (0.2 g l^{-1}) provided a weak transmission band between 230 nm and 300 nm with greater transmission between 350 nm and 500 nm (figure 2b). A solution of $\text{CrK}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1.00 g L^{-1}) had banded transmissions between 285-375 nm and 440-550 nm (figure 2c).

A. ClO Product Yield and Temporal Behavior

Time-dependent concentrations of reactants and products were measured by long-path UV absorption spectroscopy. The collimated output of a 150 W short arc xenon lamp was passed through the reaction cell using White-type optics to provide a total optical path length of 724 cm. The beam was passed to a 0.3 m monochromator equipped with a 1024 pixel diode array

detector. A 2400 line mm⁻¹ diffraction grating was used which, when coupled with the diode array detector, resulted in the detection of a spectral band of 30 nm width. With this detection scheme, the prominent ClO vibrational progression of the $\Omega = 3/2$ sub-band (A \leftarrow X) transition in the region 265-295 nm could be seen in a single scan of the detector array. By using dedicated memory locations for data storage, the diode array control electronics and interface allowed for the acquisition of up to 512 separate scans of the detector array for each firing of the flashlamp. The temporal resolution of the experiments was determined by the number of pixels read in each scan--when the entire 1024 pixels were read, the minimum temporal resolution was 16.67 Jns, but this value could be reduced to 5 Jns when a subset of only 270 adjacent pixels were used. This lower value resulted from the minimum number of pixels needed in order to maintain the unambiguous detection of ClO by the observation of at least five of the vibrational bands centered at 275 nm. Temporal information on the formation and subsequent removal of the ClO product was obtained by averaging 5 to 100 transient absorption signals following firing of the flash lamp and fitting the spectra resulting from each scan of the detector array to a reference spectrum determined from the known relative cross sections of ClO.⁹ While absolute ClO cross sections are dependent on spectrometer resolution, the measurements here were carried out using the same optical configuration as those employed by Nickolaissen *et al.* in which absolute and relative ClO cross sections were measured with estimated uncertainties of $\pm 20\%$ and $\pm 5\%$, respectively.

The ClO product yield as a function of total pressure was measured under conditions of constant Cl₂O concentration. Total flow of the gas mixture through the cell was adjusted so that the residence time within the cell was always 5-10 seconds shorter than the duty cycle of the flashlamp ensuring that all photolysis and reaction products are flushed from the cell between each firing of the flashlamp.

B. Absorption Spectra of Intermediates

For detection of absorption spectra of possible intermediates resulting from Cl₂O photolysis, a method was used that was similar to the one described above with certain modifications. The monochromator was fitted with a 1200 line mm⁻¹ diffraction resulting in a spectral bandwidth of 60 nm. Because of the very small absorption signals involved in these

measurements, it was necessary to perform 100 co-additions of the transient signal. To further improve the signal-to-noise ratio of the spectrum, ten successive scans immediately preceding the flash were averaged to produce the baseline I_0 spectrum. The transient transmission spectrum, I_t , was obtained by averaging the first ten scans immediately following the flash. An absorption spectrum of the transient species was derived from the logarithm of the ratio of I_0 to I_t . By performing the additional averaging, the S/N is significantly improved, but the temporal resolution suffers accordingly. Each scan of the diode array requires 16.67 ms, so the overall temporal resolution is 167 ms.

Because the spectral bandwidth of the monochromator equipped with a 1200 line mm^{-1} grating was only 60 nm, to produce a complete absorption spectrum it was necessary to repeat the acquisition process at a number of monochromator settings spaced 30 nm apart beginning at 300 nm and extending to 580 nm. In this manner, the overlap between successive data sets was sufficient to allow accurate splicing of the individual spectra into a complete absorption spectrum covering this entire spectral region. Wavelength calibration of the spectrometer was accomplished by recording the emission lines from a mercury pen lamp with the diode array for each monochromator setting. This provided absolute wavelength markers throughout the entire region of the transient absorption spectra.

111. Results

A. ClO Formation and Removal

Cl_2O photolysis experiments were conducted to determine the effects of a) the spectral distribution of the photolysis radiation and b) the identity and total pressure of buffer gas on the time-dependent formation and removal of ClO. Time-dependent ClO concentrations as a function of total pressure of N_2 are shown in figures 3a-d for the four flashlamp spectral distributions. These signals were recorded with a time resolution of 5 ms. In all cases, two processes contribute to the formation of ClO: direct photolysis of Cl_2O and the secondary reaction of atomic chlorine with Cl_2O . The initial rise of the signal due to the $\text{Cl} + \text{Cl}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{ClO} + \text{Cl}_2$ reaction is not seen because of the relatively long temporal resolution of the OMA.

Experiments were carried out using Cl_2O concentrations in the range $(3-10) \times 10^{14} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$ and pressure range (5-400) Torr of buffer gas. Cl_2O concentrations were kept at a minimum to avoid possible effects of Cl_2O self-quenching. Most experiments were carried out at 298 K although a few were conducted at 253 K.

For photolysis in the quartz cell (figure 3a), the maximum ClO signal is essentially independent of the total pressure within the reaction cell. The decay of the signal is governed entirely by the self-reactions of ClO and can be modeled satisfactorily using the known rate coefficients for these reactions coupled with the flow of products from the cell (see Discussion). The time scale for ClO removal decreases with increasing pressure due to the termolecular component of the ClO self-reaction. Figure 4a is a plot of the ClO yield as a function of N_2 density where the ClO yield is defined as the maximum ClO concentration normalized by the initial amount of Cl_2O present in the cell. The yield is constant over the density range $(1 - 30) \times 10^{17} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$.

Figures 3b and 3c show ClO data collected using the quartz cell with the KMnO_4 and $\text{CrK}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ filter solutions, respectively. Yields of ClO vs. N_2 density are given in figures 4b and 4c. There is a marked difference when compared to the unfiltered quartz data of figure 3a. For each experimental configuration, the data as a function of pressure display two prominent features. First, the ClO yield, as defined above, decreases with increasing bath gas density, and second, the time required to reach the maximum ClO signal increases as the bath gas density increases. Photolysis in the unfiltered quartz cell accesses both the strong absorption band of Cl_2O at 254 nm as well as the shoulder of the strong absorption feature in the region 200 nm to 225 nm (see figure 1). Photolysis using the filter solutions completely removes any contribution from the 200 nm to 225 nm band. The KMnO_4 filter severely limits the contribution from the 254 nm band, and the $\text{CrK}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ filter eliminates this contribution altogether. The difference in the product yield behavior between the unfiltered quartz cell and these filtered configurations can be related to the differences in the regions of the absorption spectrum accessed by the photolysis radiation.

Figures 3d and 4d show, respectively, the ClO temporal signals and ClO product yield for photolysis in the Pyrex cell. The behavior is similar to that observed for the filtered quartz cell

data, namely, that the yield decreases and the formation time to the maximum ClO signal increases as the bath gas density increases. Use of the Pyrex cell limits the photolysis wavelengths to 300 nm thereby accessing only the 'weak' transition on the shoulder of the 254 nm band and the bands at 410 nm and 530 nm. Figures 5-7 show the ClO time dependences and yields in the Pyrex cell for three other bath gases: O₂, He and SF₆. All three gases show the same qualitative behavior as N₂ although He is a significantly less efficient quencher than the others. The ClO yield increases somewhat with increasing O₂ pressure between 5 and 15 Torr, decreasing thereafter to the highest pressure employed.

Experiments were conducted to determine if the pressure-dependent ClO yields and temporal variations observed in the Pyrex cell were due to experimental artifacts peculiar to the cell material. A Pyrex sleeve was placed inside the quartz cell and the experiments were repeated. The results were identical with those obtained in the Pyrex cell ruling out an artifact associated with the cell itself (other than the cell material). Another test was made in which an opaque liner was placed inside the Pyrex cell to block the photolysis light from entering. The observed formation of ClO was negligible indicating that the dissociation of Cl₂O occurred by photolysis rather than some other process such as some sort of electrostatic discharge arising from the high voltage pulse on the xenon flash lamp.

B. Metastable Intermediate Formation

The dependence of the ClO yield on the buffer gas density suggests that in addition to a direct dissociation pathway, a metastable intermediate is formed which subsequently decomposes to ClO or quenches to one or more other states. Using the OMA, a spectral search was carried out for transient absorbers to identify other species or metastable states which might be formed from the photolysis. Based on simulations of the secondary chemistry of the species expected to be present in the cell following the flash, the only species with absorption in the region 350 nm to 550 nm are Cl₂O itself, and OCIO and Cl₂ which are products of the ClO self-reaction. The absorption spectrum of ground state Cl₂O is broad with no sharp distinguishing features and will result only in gradual variations of the baseline. Similarly, the Cl₂ spectrum is a broad continuum and will produce no sharp features in the absorption spectrum. OCIO has a structured spectrum from 270 nm to 475 nm corresponding to a vibrational progression in the A ← X band,

To remove the OCIO contribution to the product spectrum, a reference spectrum was produced from the OMA data collected at times greater than 7.5 s following the flash when the reactions which result in OCIO production were essentially complete. The OCIO reference spectrum was appropriately scaled and subtracted from the total absorption spectrum. Figures 8a-c displays three spectra: a) the total absorption spectrum for all species immediately following the flash, b) the OCIO reference spectrum, and c) the spectrum resulting from the removal of the OCIO contribution. Figure 8c shows a weak absorption spectrum with a complex series of vibrational progressions over the spectral range 400-600 nm. The temporal dependence of the residual spectrum was measured and found to persist for about 500 ms. The absorption spectrum of the metastable maximized at low pressure (5 Torr N₂ at a temperature of 253 K.)

The spectrum of figure 8c cannot be assigned to any of the other species that might be produced from secondary reactions of Cl₂O photolysis products (ClOO, ClO₃, Cl₂O₂, *etc.*) or from minor impurities in the Cl₂O. The structured bands are well above the noise level of the data and were reproduced a number of times using Cl₂O samples prepared at different times. In addition, all of the absorption bands in the new spectrum showed the same time dependence indicating the presence of a single absorber. The increase in baseline absorption at shorter wavelengths is attributed to changes in the concentration of ground state Cl₂O; the Cl₂O spectrum was not subtracted out because the broad absorption bands of ground state Cl₂O do not interfere with the structured spectrum of the intermediate.

IV. Discussion

The interpretation of the results of this work is heavily reliant upon an understanding of the energetics and symmetry properties of the Cl₂O excited states. We begin by discussing the methods and results of the *ab initio* calculations, then use these results to interpret the ClO formation kinetics and the spectrum of the observed metastable intermediate.

A. Computational Methods

Theoretical calculations for excited states of Cl₂O were carried out using MOLPRO,¹² a set of *ab initio* electronic structure programs. Complete-active-space self-consistent-field

(CASSCF)¹³ calculations were performed for the two states of lowest energy within each irreducible representation of the C_{2v} point group, for both the singlet and triplet manifolds, using the experimentally determined ground-state molecular geometry. Subsequently the CASSCF molecular orbitals (MOs) were used in multireference configuration -interaction (MRCI) calculations for these states.¹⁴ These were of the internally contracted type, and used the projection method of Knowles and Werner.¹⁵

The Hartree-Fock electronic configuration for the X^1A_1 ground state of Cl_2O is: (core)(6a₁)²(5b₂)²(7a₁)²(2b₁)²(6b₂)²(8a₁)²(2a₂)²(9a₁)²(7b₂)²(3b₁)²(8b₂)⁰(10a₁)⁰, where the 9a₁ and 6b₂ MOs are ClO σ -bonding and the unoccupied 8b₂ and 10a₁ MOs are ClO σ -antibonding. The active space for full-valence CASSCF calculations would comprise all these MOs, giving 20 electrons in 12 orbitals. Inspection of the CASSCF CI vectors for this active space showed that, for all the states calculated, the MOs 6a₁, 7a₁, and 5b₂, (arising from the Cl 3s and O 2s orbitals) remained doubly occupied in all significant configurations. By excluding these three MOs the active space was reduced to 14 electrons in 9 orbitals, arising from the valence p subshell of each atom. A total of between 158 and 167 configuration state functions (CSFs) were generated from this active space for the various states calculated. Further examination of the CASSCF CI vectors showed that for all symmetry species the predominant configurations had at least two electrons in the orbitals 8a₁ and 6b₂. The final reference space adopted for the MRCI calculations therefore comprised all the CASSCF CSFs except those in which the combined occupancy of the 8a₁ and 6b₂ was less than two; elimination of these configurations had only a minor effect on the total number of CSFs.

The calculations were performed using the Dunning correlation-consistent polarized valence triple-zeta (cc-pVTZ) basis,¹⁶ which has the form (10s5p2d 1 f)/[4s3p2d 1 f] for oxygen and (15s9p2d 1 f)/[5s4p2d 1 f] for chlorine; this gave a total number of 98 basis functions. To check for

basis-set effects in the results, calculations were also made with a smaller valence double-zeta basis (involving only 50 basis functions) but the results were found to differ very little.

B. Computational Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows total energies and vertical transition energies, calculated at the MRCISD/cc-pVTZ level, for the following excited states: $1^1A_1, 2^1A_1, 1^1B_1, 2^1B_1, 1^1B_2, 2^1B_2, 1^1A_2, 2^1A_2, 1^3A_1, 2^3A_1, 1^3B_1, 2^3B_1, 1^3B_2, 2^3B_2, 1^3A_2$, and 2^3A_2 . State-averaged orbitals were used for each of the different space and spin symmetries in order to avoid bias towards the lower energy states. First, eight separate two-state CASSCF (14 in 9) calculations were performed for $(X^1A_1 + 2^1A_1)$, $(1^1B_1 + 2^1B_1)$, $(1^1B_2 + 2^1B_2)$, $(1^1A_2 + 2^1A_2)$, $(1^3A_1 + 2^3A_1)$, $(1^3B_1 + 2^3B_1)$, $(1^3B_2 + 2^3B_2)$, and $(1^3A_2 + 2^3A_2)$. The MOs from each of these calculations were then used in MRCISD calculations for the two states; e. g., the MOs from the $(11112 + 2^111_2)$ CASSCF calculation were used to calculate the energies of the first and second 1B_2 states at the MRCISD level.

Transition dipole moments (and hence oscillator strengths) between the lowest-energy state and each higher state, within both the singlet and triplet manifolds, were calculated at the MRCISD/cc-pVTZ level, as shown in Table 2. It is necessary to employ the same orbitals for both states involved in each transition.¹⁷ Thus to obtain orbitals averaged over both the lower and upper state required a further three-state CASSCF (14 in 9) calculation, i.e., $(X^1A_1 + 11111 + 2^1B_1)$, $(X^1A_1 + 1^1B_2 + 2^1B_2)$, $(X^1A_1 + 1^1A_2 + 2^1A_2)$, $(1^3B_1 + 1^3A_1 + 2^3A_1)$, $(1^3B_1 + 1^3B_2 + 2^3B_2)$, and $(1^3B_1 + 1^3A_2 + 2^3A_2)$, unless the upper and lower states were already of the same symmetry. To calculate the transition dipole moment for the transition $(2^3A_2 \leftarrow 1^3B_1)$, for example, an MRCISD wavefunction for each state was determined using the orbitals from the $(1^311_1 + 1^3A_2 + 2^3A_2)$ calculation. Since the three-state CASSCF calculations give orbitals that are less well adapted to each individual state than are those from the one-state CASSCF calculations, the resulting energies are slightly less satisfactory for each state. However, comparison of the transition energies in Tables 1 and 2 reveals no significant differences. Moreover, it was found that very similar results were obtained for transition energies and oscillator strengths at the CASSCF level using either the (14 in 9) or the larger (20 in 12) active space, and with either the cc-pVTZ or the smaller cc-pVDZ basis; these findings (not shown) confirm the essential reliability of the results presented.

The lowest energy triplet state calculated was 1^3B_1 . The predominant configuration in the MRCISD vector for this state corresponds to an excitation from the $(3b_1)^2$ non-bonding orbital of the Hartree-Fock ground state to the $(10a_1)^0 \sigma^*(C1O)$ antibonding orbital. The transition with the

largest oscillator strength is $2^3A_2 \leftarrow 1^3B_1$; this transition corresponds to excitation of an electron from the doubly occupied $(2a_2)^2$ orbital in the 1^3B_1 state to the singly occupied $(3b_1)^1$ orbital.

The computed vertical excitation energies and oscillator strengths of Table 2 may be used to interpret the observed Cl_2O absorption spectrum shown in figure 1. The experimental spectrum has five prominent features in the region of interest to this study--absorption peaks at 171 nm (7.24 eV), 254 nm (4.88 eV), 420 nm (2.9 eV), and 540 nm (2.3 eV), and a shoulder on the 254 nm peak at 300 nm (4.1 eV). The largest peak at 7.24 eV correlates well with the calculated energy of 7.345 eV for the 2^1B_1 state. The peak observed at 4.88 eV is consistent with the 1^1B_2 state calculated to be at 4.983 eV. Examination of the computed oscillator strengths indicates that these two states should indeed have the strongest absorptions in agreement with the observed spectrum. However, the ordering is reversed--*ab initio* results predict the 1^1B_2 state to have a slightly larger absorption cross section relative to the 2^1B_1 state whereas the experimental spectrum indicates a larger oscillator strength for the higher energy state.

The computed oscillator strengths indicate that the next strongest absorption following the two large features is the transition to the 1^1B_1 state. The calculated energy of this transition is 3.419 eV which does not directly correlate with any features of the observed absorption spectrum. However, the shoulder to the low energy side of the 254 nm peak is of sufficient strength that this feature most likely arises from the $1^1B_1 \leftarrow 1^1A_1$ transition. If this indeed the case, then the calculated transition energy of this state is low by several tenths of an eV. The transition to the 2^1A_1 state at 5.453 eV also has sufficient oscillator strength to be observed experimentally, but this absorption is buried in the shoulder of the large feature at 7.24 eV.

The weak absorption peaks at 2.3 eV and 2.9 eV cannot be assigned to singlet-singlet transitions because the 1^1B_1 state is the lowest excited state in the singlet manifold, and the energy of this state is substantially higher than the observed transition energies of these two features. The 2.9 eV peak corresponds to a spin forbidden transition to the lowest lying triplet state, 1^3B_1 . The oscillator strength for this triplet-singlet transition was not determined in this study, but this assignment is consistent with the calculated transition energy of 2.625 eV and the small absorption cross section of $1 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2$ expected for a forbidden transition such as this. However, that excitation of this triplet state occurs is an indication that the 1^3B_1 state is not

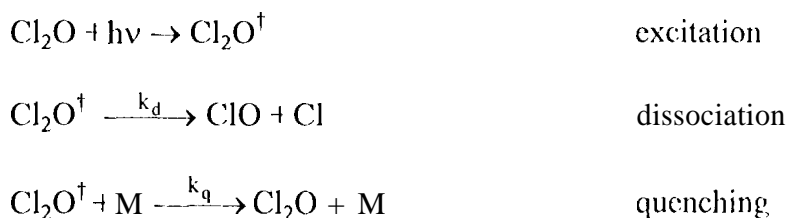
strictly triplet in nature, but rather has a mixed configuration containing some singlet character. The very weak feature at 2.3 eV cannot be assigned to a transition from the ground electronic state since the excitation energy is significantly lower than any of the calculated excited state energies in either the singlet or triplet manifolds. This absorption may arise from a transition between two excited electronic states where the lower lying state is prepared by excitation from the ground state.

C. ClO Formation Kinetics

Our experiments focused on the production of ClO from the broadband pulsed photolysis of Cl₂O using different photolytic spectral distributions extending from the visible to 200 nm. The ClO time dependence was dominated by two major effects: the kinetics of ClO formation which, when photolyzed at longer wavelengths, were determined primarily by the excited state dynamics of Cl₂O and the kinetics of ClO removal which were dominated by ClO self-reaction. These processes will be discussed below.

The time dependence of ClO production was influenced strongly by the spectral domain of the photolysis radiation, the bath gas pressure and the bath gas identity. Restricting the spectrum of the photolysis radiation to wavelengths longer than about 250 nm results in significant changes in the production of ClO. First, the time scale for the formation of ClO ($X^2\Pi$) changes from instantaneous on the scale of the OMA temporal resolution to values in the range of 50-200 ms. The time at which the ClO maximum is reached increases with increasing bath gas density until about 100 Torr at which point the time to reach the maximum decreased. Second, the maximum photolytic yield of ClO changes from being independent of the bath gas density to inversely dependent on the density. These observations strongly suggest that Cl₂O photolysis beyond 250 nm results in the formation of metastable states which undergo competitive collisional deactivation and unimolecular decomposition to form ClO and possibly other products. Due to the broadband nature of the photolysis spectrum, the wavelength dependence of the excitation leading to the Cl₂O metastable cannot be determined. The observed behavior is a convolution of the photolytic intensity distribution which increases rapidly at longer wavelengths, the absorption cross sections which decrease rapidly at longer wavelengths, and the energy dependence of the excitation leading to the curve crossing which is unknown.

Insight into the excited state dynamics arising from the long-wavelength excitation may be obtained from a kinetic simulation of the ClO temporal profile and its dependence on the buffer gas density. The simplest mechanism for the formation of ClO product consists of a single metastable excited state with competition between quenching and dissociation, *i. e.*,



The time dependence for ClO formation is given by

$$[\text{ClO}] = \frac{k_d [\text{Cl}_2\text{O}^\dagger]_0}{k_d + k_q [\text{M}]} (1 - e^{-(k_d + k_q [\text{M}])t})$$

The kinetics of the ClO removal are dominated by the self-reaction of ClO. As discussed by Nickolaissen *et al.*,¹⁹ the detailed mechanism of the ClO self-reaction consists of both bimolecular and termolecular components at temperatures above about 250 K. The detailed reaction mechanism is given in Table 3. The time scale for ClO removal by ClO self-reaction is sufficiently long ($t > 0.1$ s) that the ClO removal mechanism can be decoupled from the excited state dynamics which produce ClO at long wavelengths. This mechanism for ClO formation coupled with the ClO self-reaction kinetics predicts that as the pressure is increased, the time to reach the maximum ClO signal will decrease. The observed ClO signals for photolysis in the unfiltered quartz cell conform to the time dependence predicted by this equation. Figure 9 illustrates the fit of the unfiltered quartz cell data to a mechanism that included the above elementary steps and all chemical processes involved in the ClO self-reaction. Reactions and rate coefficients for the ClO removal processes are given in Table 3. The simulations were performed by simultaneously fitting the ClO time dependent signals at pressures of 5, 10, 25, and 100 Torr to this mechanism using a non-linear least-squares technique. The parameters varied in the fitting routine were the initial amount of $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}^\dagger]_0$, k_d , and k_q . The resulting values were $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}^\dagger]_0 = 5.4 \times 10^{13} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$, $k_d = 1.5 \times 10^{13} \text{ s}^{-1}$, and $k_q = 4.4 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The values for k_d and k_q are reasonable, but may not accurately represent the rate coefficients for

these physical processes because the hypersurface used in the fitting routine is not tightly constrained by the data.

While this mechanism predicts the ClO yield and temporal behavior for photolysis at short wavelengths, it does not describe the experimental data for the other photolysis configurations in which absorption to the 2^1B_1 state is not involved. To model the temporal behavior correctly, it was necessary to include two excited states in the mechanism. The first state is populated either directly by photolysis or by intersystem crossing from the initially prepared singlet upper state. The second state is produced by collisional relaxation from the first state and may dissociate to products or undergo collisional quenching to the ground state. Examination of the energy level diagram in figure 10 suggests that plausible candidates for the two metastable excited states are the 1^3A_2 and 1^3B_1 states, respectively, and that the initially prepared singlet state in this wavelength region is 1^1B_1 . The complete mechanism is

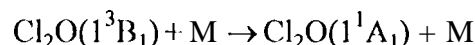
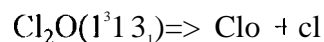
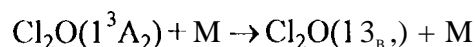
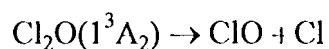
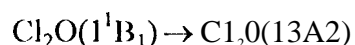
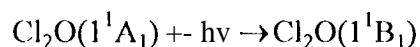


Figure 10 schematically indicates the process occurring during Cl_2O photolysis for wavelengths greater than 300 nm. Initial excitation from the ground state is dominated by transition to the 1^1B_1 state with a small fraction (from the relative absorption cross sections, perhaps 1-2%) of population in the 1^3B_1 state. As mentioned previously, the actual energy of the 1^1B_1 state is higher than shown in figure 8, and is probably much closer to the wavelength cut-off of the Pyrex cell at 300 nm. Thus, the 1^1B_1 and 1^3A_2 states will be in near resonance so that intersystem crossing to the triplet manifold from the initially prepared singlet state occurs. This process is very efficient because of the energy overlap of rovibrational levels within the 1^1B_1 and 1^3A_2 states, the density of rovibrational states, and the probable mixed character of the 1^3A_2 state. As

a result, the 1^1B_1 state undergoes competition between intersystem crossing to the 1^3A_2 state and collisions] quenching to the ground state.

Once in the triplet manifold, $Cl_2O(1^3A_2)$ either dissociates to products or is collisionally quenched to the lowest lying 1^3B_1 state. The 1^3B_1 state, in turn, may also dissociate to products or be quenched to the ground 1^1A_1 state. The quenching step is quite inefficient because of the spin forbidden nature of the transition and the large energy difference between states, so that this process becomes significant only at higher pressures. We know that the lifetime of the 1^3B_1 state is quite long because it is this state that is the source of the intermediate absorption spectrum measured in these experiments. Hence, the dissociation process from this lowest triplet state must also be inefficient. This mechanism was used to simulate the ClO temporal signals of figure 3d for photolysis in the Pyrex cell at 253 K with nitrogen as the bath gas over the pressure range 5- 100 Torr. Results are shown in figure 11. The qualitative features of the experimental data are replicated by this mechanism, namely, that the ClO yield decreases and time required to attain the maximum ClO signal initially increases and then decreases with increasing bath gas density. The model could not be made to fit the data quantitatively. This is due to the simplified nature of the excited state mechanism and the computational difficulties involved in deriving a best fit of four data sets to a six-parameter mechanism.

An important piece of information in the verification of this mechanism involving excited state dynamics is the absorption spectrum of the Cl_2O intermediate shown in figure 8c. As mentioned previously, this highly structured spectrum cannot be attributed to any of the other transient radicals or stable molecules produced chemically in the above mechanism because the UV-visible spectra of these species are known and do not match the spectrum observed immediately following the flashlamp. Additionally, the temporal behavior of this intermediate spectrum was measured by monitoring the heights of the four larger peaks in the region of 440 nm as a function of time. The lifetime of the intermediate spectrum correlated very well with the formation of the ClO product. The qualitative agreement between the simulations and data coupled with the measured intermediate absorption spectrum provides compelling evidence that the mechanism described above is substantially] y correct in describing the long wavelength photolysis dynamics of Cl_2O .

D. Spectral Analysis

The spectrum of the transient absorber shown in figure 8c displays extensive, complicated vibronic structure. Closer inspection shows that the spectrum separates into three distinguishable sections.

The lowest energy region ($16,600 - 20,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) is characterized by a series of low intensity features with ~ 100 and $\sim 300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ spacing, but lacking a well-defined origin. A positive identification of any regular progressions is complicated by the near resonance of 3×100 with 300 cm^{-1} and the fact that these bands overlap one another in most instances.

The intermediate energy region ($20,000 - 22,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) has the type of overall intensity contour one would expect for a Franck-Condon envelope. The strength of individual features increases from a minimum near $20,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, peaks near $21,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, then slowly decreases with increasing energy. The number of features in this energy range, however, is far larger than one might expect for the spectrum of a well-behaved triatomic molecule. We have identified fragmentary series having 110 , 325 , and 768 cm^{-1} spacings in this region as well as a number of series having $345\text{--}350 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ spacings but we have been unable to establish a unique origin for the bands in this region.

The spectrum changes significantly in the $22,000 - 26,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ region. An expanded view of this region is shown in figure 12. The first few features in this region are quite intense and well separated from their neighbors. It was possible to identify progressions having 283 , 443 , and 505 cm^{-1} differences using the strong feature at $22,322 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ as a starting point. Incorporating these three frequencies into an harmonic oscillator calculation, 31 features were fitted within the experimental resolution of the spectrum. The dominant progression was one with up to 8 quanta of excitation in the 283 cm^{-1} mode. This frequency is consistent with a C1OC1 bending motion and indicates a significant change in the bond angle between the upper and lower electronic states. Another interesting aspect of the spectrum in this region is the presence of a strong progression at 886 cm^{-1} , which may indicate that 443 cm^{-1} corresponds to an antisymmetric C1O stretching motion. A more quantitative analysis of the spectrum requires higher resolution data.

The *ab initio* excitation energies and oscillator strengths given in Tables 1 and 2 for electronic transitions within the Cl₂O triplet manifold are consistent with the experimentally observed transient absorption spectrum. There are only two excited electronic states energetically accessible after Cl₂O photoexcitation with wavelengths longer than 350 nm: 1^1B_1 (S; $\lambda_{\text{thresh}} = 364$ nm) and 1^3B_1 (T; $\lambda_{\text{thresh}} = 472$ nm). While we cannot eliminate singlet-singlet transitions originating from S, as the source of the metastable spectrum, the $2^3A_2 \leftarrow 1^3B_1$ transition has an unusually large oscillator strength and is at least an order of magnitude stronger than any other singlet or triplet transition listed. Additionally, the calculated transition energy, -3.0 eV (24,200 cm⁻¹), lies within the range of the experimentally observed transient spectrum. Our calculations are still exploratory at this stage and should not be used for definitive spectral assignments, but they do suggest that the upper state in the 22,000-26,000 cm⁻¹ transition may possess a large fraction of 2^3A_2 character.

The *ab initio* calculations also suggest an explanation for the complicated, low intensity features present below 22,000 cm⁻¹. Three excited triplet configurations were identified at energies below the 2^3A_2 state. Any or all of these states could mix with the 2^3A_2 state and borrow oscillator strength, thereby producing observable absorption and complicated vibronic patterns. Similarly, mixing between the nearly degenerate 2^1A_2 and 2^3A_2 states might provide sufficient oscillator strength to produce some features in the otherwise forbidden $2^1A_2 \leftarrow 1^3B_1$ transition. Severe perturbations in the vibrational spacings of the spectrum might also result from mixing of the metastable eigenstates with the manifold of dark S₀ and/or T₀ levels. Further experimental and theoretical studies are required to uncover these aspects of Cl₂O photochemistry.

The observed pressure dependent photolysis yields for Cl₂O may have important implications for stratospheric chemistry. For most temporary reservoirs of odd hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine and bromine in the lower stratosphere, photolysis is the dominant loss mechanism. Below about 26 km, photolysis is restricted to wavelengths longer than about 290 nm due to absorption by ozone at higher altitudes. Above this wavelength, absorption cross sections are generally less than 5×10^{-20} cm² molecule⁻¹, (increasing rapidly with wavelength). Excitations in this region may be dominated by weak transitions whose dissociation dynamics

are highly uncertain because quantum yield studies typically address the more intense region of the continuum. Species that fall into this category include ClONO_2 , N_2O_5 , H_2O_2 , HNO_3 and HO_2NO_2 . Using the same technique employed for the Cl_2O studies, we have observed that the yields of ClO and NO_3 from the photolysis of ClONO_2 at wavelengths longer than 300 nm are also pressure dependent.²⁰ In order to assess the importance of this mechanism for stratospheric chemistry it is necessary to carry out quantum yield studies using monochromatic excitation over a range of wavelengths and bath gas densities appropriate for the lower stratosphere.

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. MRCISD/cc-pVTZ total energies (Hartrees) and vertical excitation energies (eV) for singlet and triplet states of Cl₂O, calculated at the experimental ground-state geometry with CASSCF (14 in 9) state-averaged orbitals for pairs of states with the same space and spin symmetry.

State	E _{tot} (Hartrees)	E _{rel}	State	E _{tot} (Hartrees)	E _{rel}
1 ¹ A ₁	-994.36550	0.0	1 ³ B ₁	-994.26904	2.625
1 ¹ B ₁	-994.24030	3.407	1 ³ A ₂	-994.21788	4.017
1 ¹ A ₂	-994.18342	4.954	1 ³ B ₂	-994.21255	4.162
1 ¹ 112	-994.18233	4.984	1 ³ A ₁	-994.20431	4.386
2 ¹ A ₁	-994.16509	5.453	2 ³ A ₂	-994.15897	5.620
2 ¹ A ₂	-994.15088	5.840	2 ³ A ₁	-994.13017	6.404
2 ¹ B ₁	-994.09675	7.313	2 ³ B ₂	-994.12475	6.552
2 ¹ B ₂	-994.07360	7.943	2 ³ B ₁	-994.12043	6.669

Table 2. MRCISD/cc-pVTZ vertical excitation energies (eV) and oscillator strengths for singlet states (relative to S₀) and triplet states (relative to T₀)^a calculated at the experimental ground-state geometry for Cl₂O with Ihrec-state CASSCF (14 in 9) averaged orbitals.

State	E _{rel}	f	State	E _{rel}	f
1 ¹ A ₁	0.0		1 ³ B ₁ ^a	0.0	
1 ¹ B ₁	3.419	1.42x10 ⁻⁴	1 ³ A ₂	1.417	8.81 X10 ⁻⁴
1 ¹ A ₂	4.969	0.0	1 ³ B ₂	1.559	0.0
1 ¹ 132	4.983	7.75 X10 ⁻³	1 ³ A ₁	1.775	3.3 X10 ⁻⁶
2 ¹ A ₁	5.453	8.5x10 ⁻⁵	2 ³ A ₂	3.009	1.03X10 ⁻⁵
2 ¹ A ₂	5.884	0.0	2 ³ A ₁	3.819	8.0x10 ⁻⁵
2 ¹ B ₁	7.345	5.26x10 ⁻³	2 ³ B ₂	3.962	0.0
2 ¹ B ₂	7.981	6.0x10 ⁻⁶	2 ³ B ₁	4.044	5.37 X10 ⁻³

a) 1³.(1³11₁) state is 2.625 eV above S₀(1¹A₁).

Table 3. Mechanism for the simulation of ClO kinetic decay in the photolysis of Cl₂O.

Reaction	k (C1711101cCmi7s=')	Reference
Cl ₂ O + hv → ClO + Cl	Φ = 0.75	5
Cl ₂ O + hv → Cl ₂ + O	Φ = 0.25	5
Cl ₂ O + Cl → ClO + Cl ₂	9.8x10 ⁻²²	21
Cl ₂ O + O → 2ClO	3.5 x10 ⁻¹²	21
ClO + ClO → Cl ₂ + O ₂	4.9 x10 ⁻¹⁵	19
ClO + ClO → ClOO + Cl	8.0 X10 ⁻¹⁵	19
ClO + ClO → OClO + Cl	3.5 X10 ⁻¹⁵	19
ClO + ClO + M → Cl ₂ O ₂ + M	(0.99 3.1 5)X10 ⁻³² *	19
O + ClO → Cl + O ₂	3.8x10 ⁻¹¹	21
O + OClO → ClO + O ₂	1.0X10 ⁻¹³	21
Cl + ClOO → 2ClO	1.2X10 ⁻²²	21
Cl + ClOO → Cl ₂ + O ₂	2.3x10 ⁻¹⁰	21
Cl + Cl ₂ O ₂ → ClOO + Cl*	1.0x10 ⁻¹⁰	21
ClOO + M → Cl + O ₂ + M	1.1 X10 ⁻¹²	21
Cl ₂ O ₂ + M → 2ClO + M	2.3x10 ⁻¹⁸	21
Cl + O ₂ + M → ClOO + M	2.7x10 ⁻³³ *	21
O + OClO + M → ClO ₃ + M	1.9x10 ⁻³¹ *	22

* Units are cm⁶ molecule⁻² s⁻¹

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Cl_2O absorption cross sections vs. wavelength. Bars indicate excitation regions for photolysis cell/filter solution combinations discussed in the text.

Figure 2. Flashlamp spectral distributions for different photolysis cell/filter combinations: (a) unfiltered quartz cell; (b) quartz cell with KMnO_4 (0.2 g L^{-1}) filter solution; (c) quartz cell with $\text{CrK}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (100 g L^{-1}) filter solution; (d) unfiltered Pyrex cell.

Figure 3a. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in unfiltered quartz cell with N_2 bath gas at pressures of (a) 5.0 Torr; (b) 10.0 Torr; (c) 25.1 Torr; (d) 100.1 Torr. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 5 \times 10^{14} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$, $T = 298 \text{ K}$.

Figure 3b. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in the quartz cell/ KMnO_4 filter combination with N_2 bath gas at pressures of: (a) 5.1 Torr; (b) 10.1 Torr; (c) 24.9 Torr; (d) 99.8 Torr. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 5 \times 10^{14} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$, $T = 298 \text{ K}$.

Figure 3c. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in the quartz cell/ $\text{CrK}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ filter combination with N_2 bath gas at pressures of: (a) 5.1 Torr; (b) 10.1 Torr; (c) 25.0 Torr; (d) 100.2 Torr. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 5 \times 10^{14} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$, $T = 298 \text{ K}$.

Figure 3d. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in unfiltered Pyrex cell with N_2 bath gas at pressures of: (a) 5.0 Torr; (b) 10.0 Torr; (c) 25.1 Torr; (d) 100.1 Torr. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 1 \times 10^{15} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$, $T = 253 \text{ K}$.

Figure 4. ClO yield as a function of bath gas density following Cl_2O photolysis for the cell/filter combinations of figure 3. Yield is defined as $[\text{ClO}]_{\text{max}}/[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0$.

Figure 5. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in the unfiltered Pyrex cell with O_2 as the bath gas at pressures of: (a) 5.0 Torr; (b) 10.2 Torr; (c) 15.2 Torr; (d) 20.3 Torr; (e) 50.4 Torr. Inset shows ClO yield as a function of O_2 density. Note the initial rise in yield

between 5 and 10 Torr followed by a decline at higher densities. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 3.4 \times 10^{14}$ molecule cm^{-3} , $T = 298$ K.

Figure 6. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in the unfiltered Pyrex cell with helium as the bath gas at pressures of: (a) 5.1 Torr; (b) 10.2 Torr; (c) 50.2 Torr; (d) 100.3 Torr; (e) 400.5 Torr. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 3.4 \times 10^{14}$ molecule cm^{-3} , $T = 298$ K.

Figure 7. ClO temporal signals following Cl_2O photolysis in the unfiltered Pyrex cell with SiF_6 as the bath gas at pressures of: (a) 5.3 Torr; (b) 10.1 Torr; (c) 20.5 Torr; (d) 50.5 Torr; (e) 100.5 Torr. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 3.4 \times 10^{14}$ molecule cm^{-3} , $T = 298$ K.

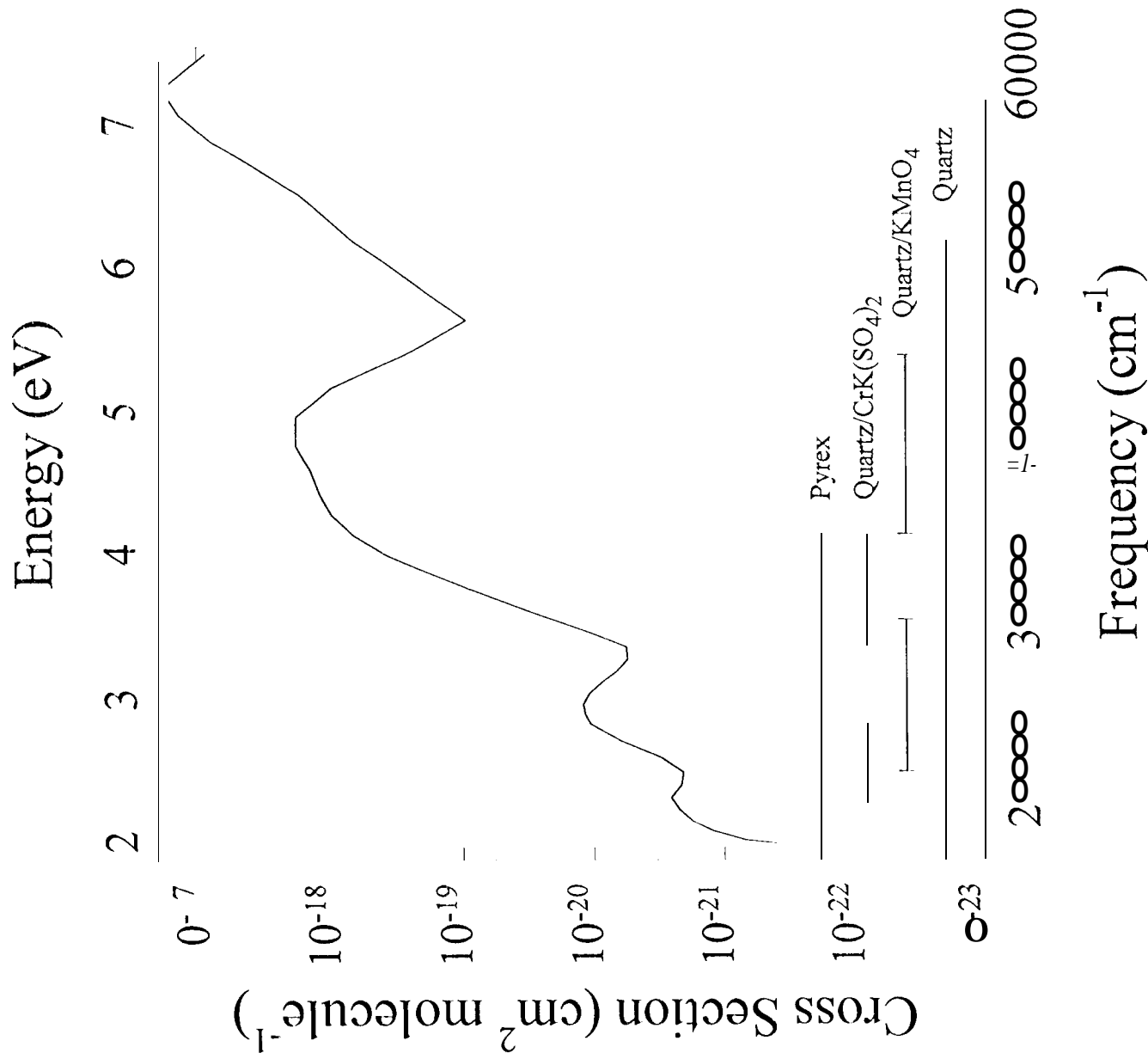
Figure 8. (a) Total absorption spectrum collected from the first 10 scans of the diode array immediately following firing of the flashlamp. $[\text{Cl}_2\text{O}]_0 = 1 \times 10^{15}$ molecule cm^{-3} , cell temperature was 253 K, and total pressure was 5.0 Torr with N_2 as the bath gas. (b) OCIO absorption spectrum collected approximately 7 s following firing of the flashlamp when [OCIO] is near its maximum. OCIO is a product of the $\text{ClO} + \text{ClO}$ reaction. (c) Cl_2O metastable intermediate absorption spectrum determined by subtracting an appropriately scaled OCIO spectrum (figure 8b) from the total absorption spectrum (figure 8a).

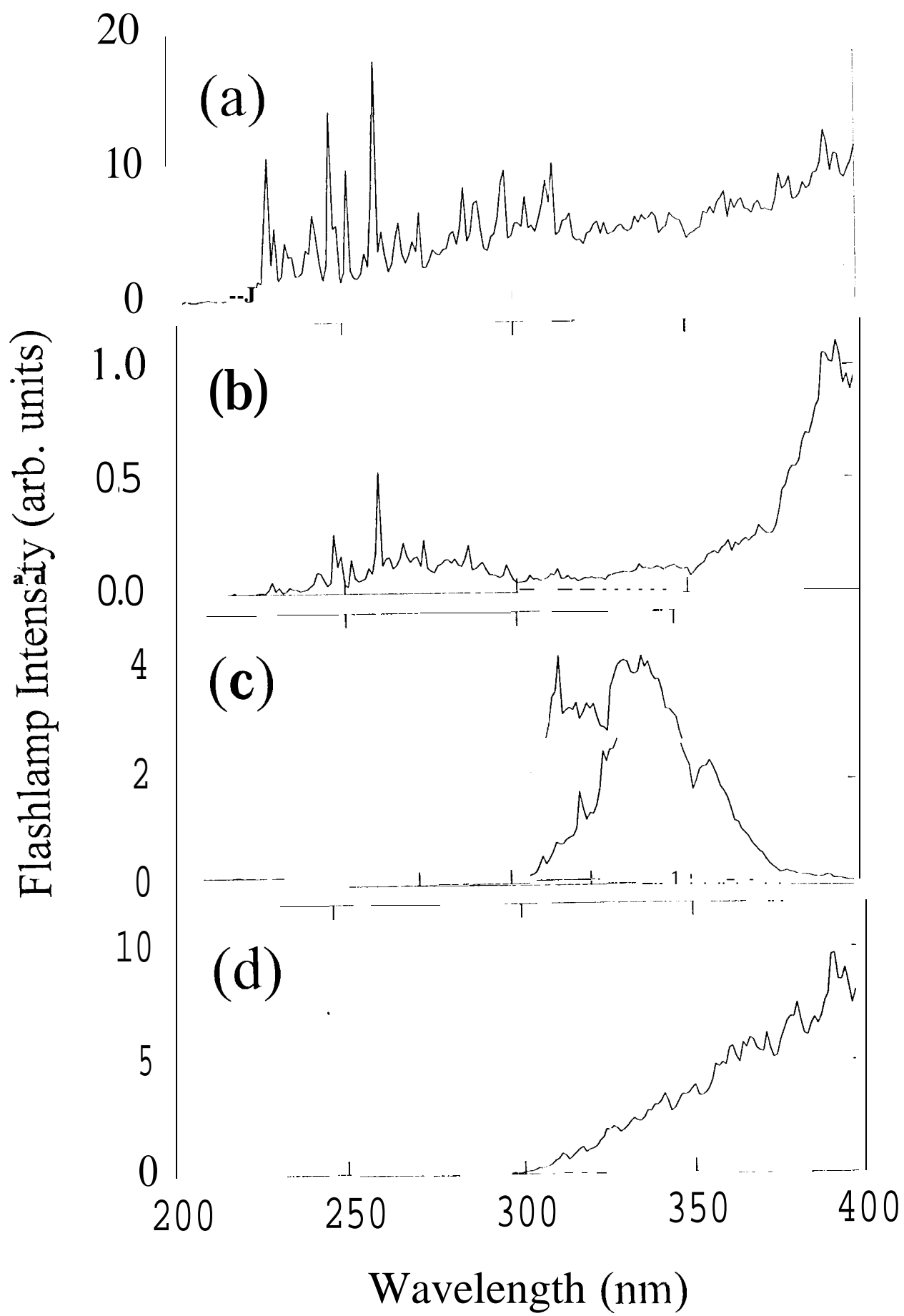
Figure 9. Fit of the unfiltered quartz cell data of figure 3a to a model which includes a single excited $\text{Cl}_2\text{O}^{\dagger}$ state undergoing competition between dissociation to products and quenching back to the ground state and the secondary chemistry of the $\text{ClO} + \text{ClO}$ reactions. All four temporal signals were fit simultaneously with a single set of rate coefficients.

Figure 10. Energy diagram of Cl_2O electronic states. Vertical excitation energies are given in eV, and oscillator strengths are included in parentheses for each state. Bold lines indicate processes involved in the long wavelength photolysis. $h\nu_{\text{excitation}}$ represents excitation by the xenon flashlamp, M indicates collisional quenching, ISC indicates intersystem crossing, and $h\nu_{\text{probe}}$ represents absorption to produce the observed metastable spectrum.

Figure 11. ClO temporal signals resulting from model simulations of the reaction mechanism which includes quenching to a Cl_2O metastable intermediate from the initially excited electronic state, dissociation of the intermediate state, and quenching of the intermediate state to the ground state. Upper panel] is the experimental data f figure 3d with an expanded time axis. Lower panel are the simulated data. Total pressures are: (a) 5 Torr; (b) 10 Torr; (c) 25 Torr; (d) 100 Torr.

Figure 12. Vibronic band assignments are shown for the dominant progressions of the metastable Cl_2O spectrum observed between 22,000 and 26,000 cm^{-1} . The long progressions A and B have frequencies characteristic of a Cl-O stretching mode and suggest significant differences between the T_0 and 1^1 equilibrium structures.





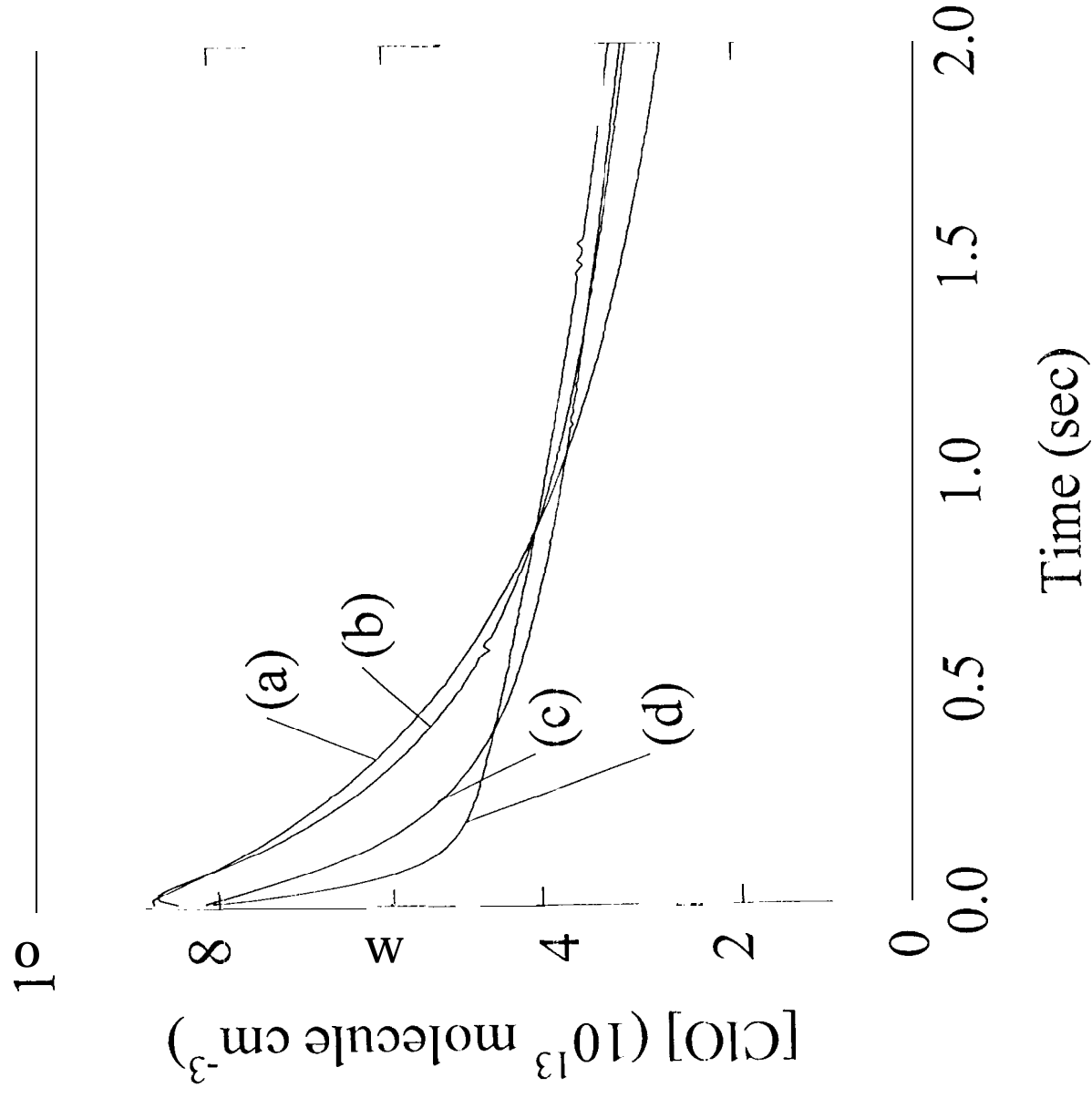
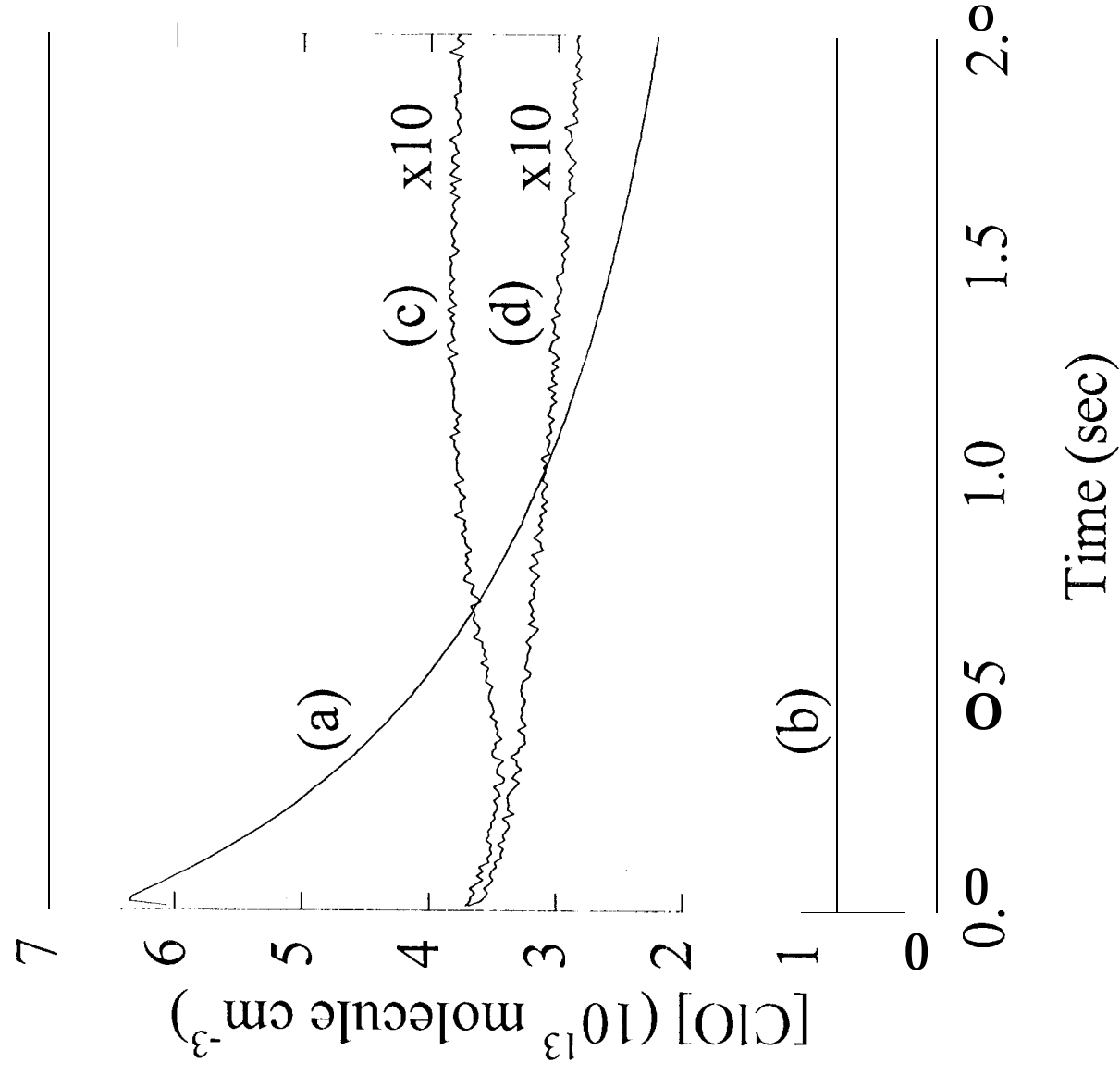
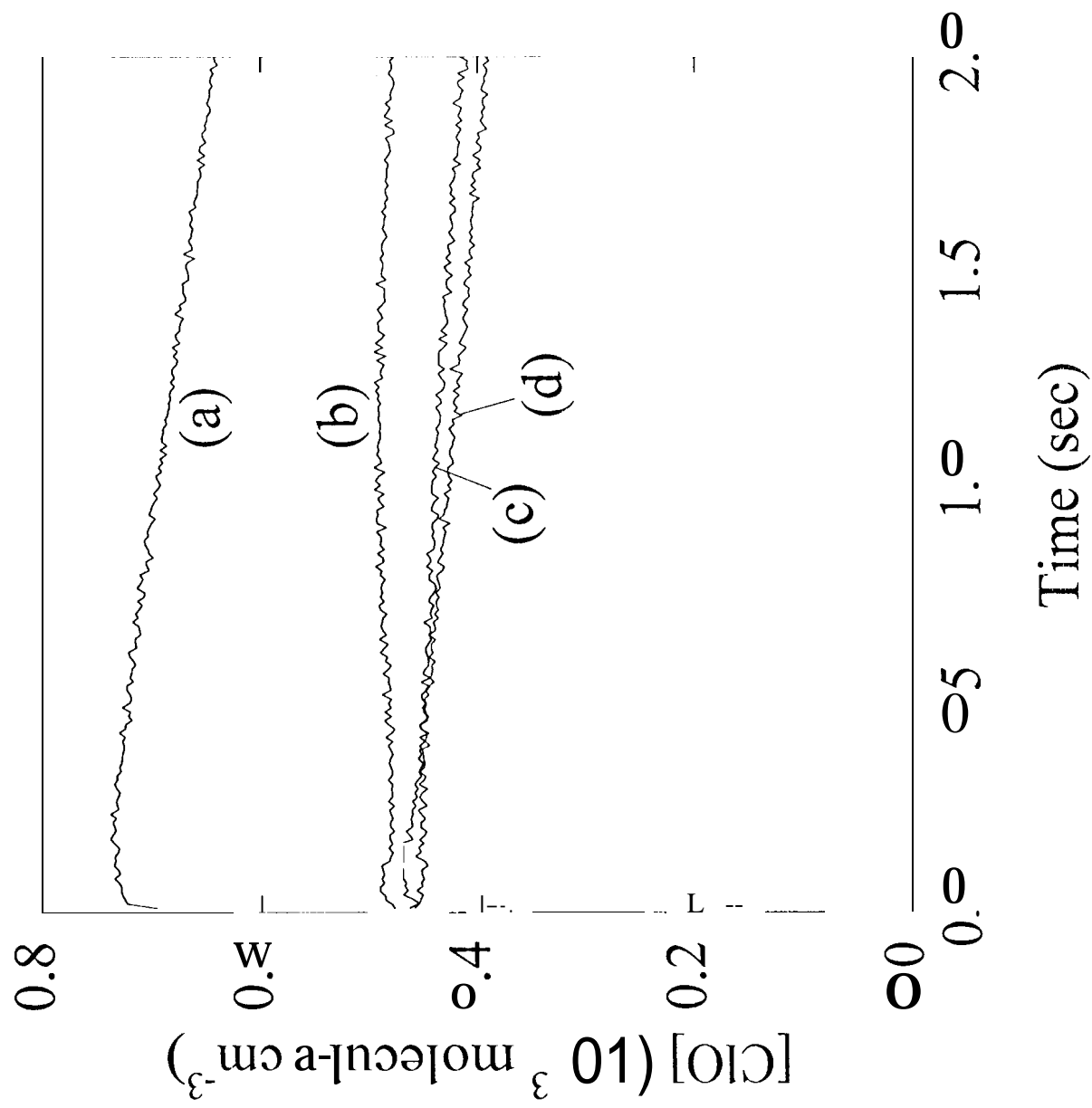
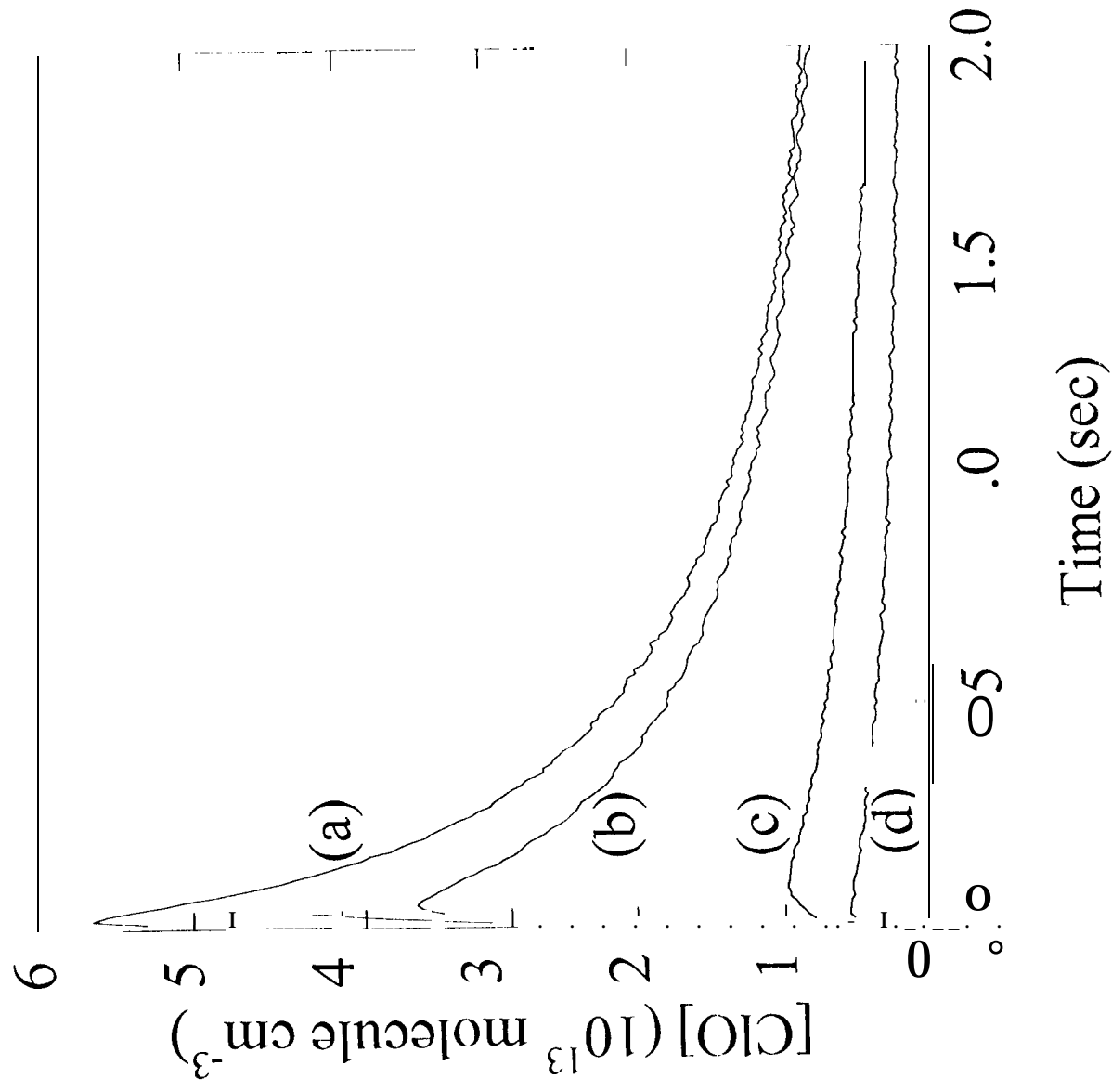


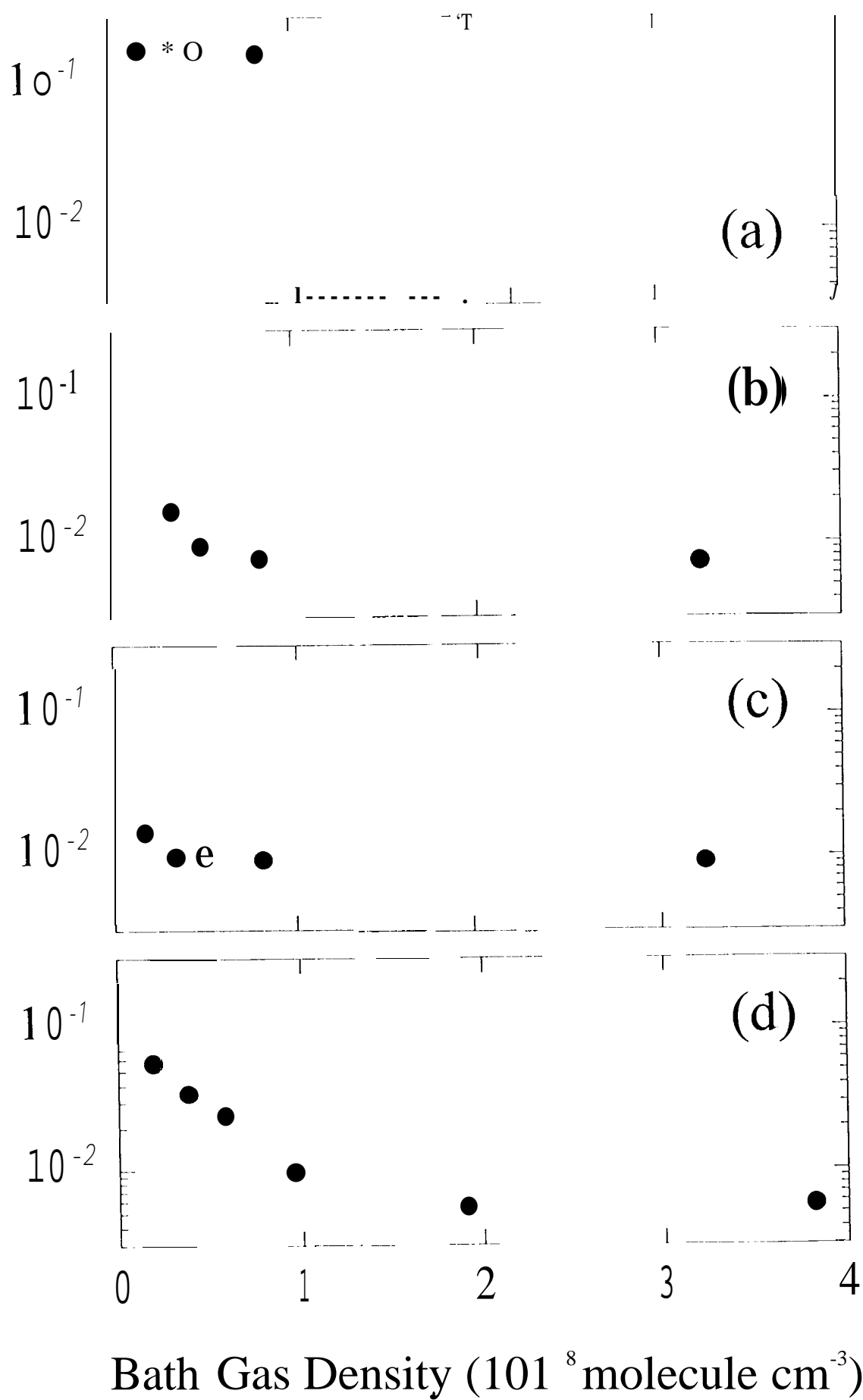
Fig 3a







Relative ClO Yield



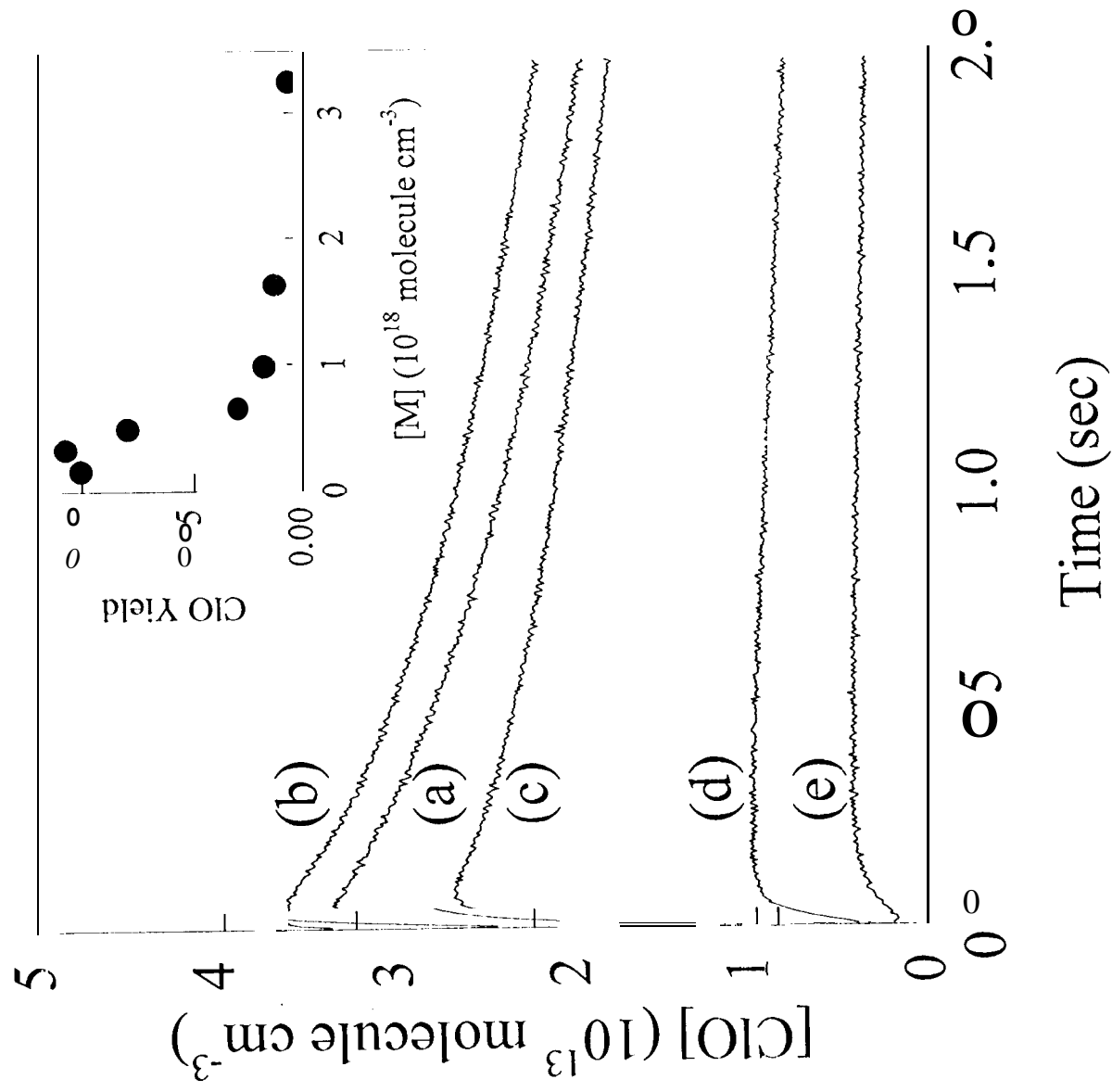


Fig. 5

